

Brandon Beach

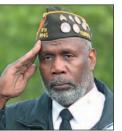
Pfc. Marco Garced focuses on the target May 12 on Panzer Kaserne during 6th Area Support Group's three-day Solider and NCO of the Year competition. Garced was one of six Soldiers who competed over three days for the right to represent the 6th ASG during June's Installation Management Agency Europe Region Soldier and NCO of the Year competitions.

Inside This
Edition

Page 4

## 30 years after Vietnam, veterans remember

Three decades after the end of U.S. military action in Vietnam, veterans and friends gather to remember in Stuttgart.



## Pages 8 & 9 leaders addres

## DoD leaders address BRAC proposals

Defense Department officials have begun the public process of explaining their recommendations for realignment.



#### Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions



#### Roses to:

Jon Griffin for his willingness to step in as pastor of the Panzer Gospel Service at a time when he was greatly

Mr. Griffin has volunteered many hours dedicated to teaching and leading, and he has truly gone above and beyond the normal call of duty and really put his heart into his efforts.

Karl Parrish at the Patch Shoppette for always providing excellent customer service with a smile. Recently he tended to a customer in front of me who apparently just moved here and did not have a ration card.

The customer and the woman in front of him gave Karl a difficult time for doing his job by requiring the card, but (as always) he remained calm and pleasant

6th ASG Fitness Coordinator Cory Doubek for her hard work in putting together the May 21 Cobblestone Classic. We truly appreciate her effort and dedication.

**6th ASG Equal Opportunity Office** and all who worked so hard to make the Asian-American/Pacific Islander event May 17 such a success.

The entertainment was tremendous and the food was delicious.

#### Thorns to:

AAFES PXtra on Patch Barracks for not ensuring prices are marked on items. I had to wait in line for the only cashier to scan several items for me just so I could receive the prices.

Aafes should employ more people in order to provide better customer service.

E-mail comments to citizen@6asg.army.mil or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

### Personnel management director addresses promotion concerns

Says policy doesn't mean automatic upgrades

By Brig. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg

Human Resources Command

here has been much discussion recently regarding Automatic List Integration for promotion to sergeant. I would like to take the opportunity to clear up some misconceptions.

This new policy does not result in automatic promotions, nor does it change Army standards for promotion.

Commanders have the responsibility to deny list integration if the Soldier is not trained, or is otherwise unqualified in accordance with the standards outlined in Chapter 3 of the Army Regulation 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions.

Unit leadership is still an integral part of the promotion process.

The commander makes the final decision about whether the Soldier is ready for increased leadership responsibility.

Experience shows that commanders are taking an active role to ensure the quality of the Army's noncommissioned officer corps.

With increased operational requirements due to the global war on terrorism, the Army has been struggling with getting otherwise fully eligible Soldiers boarded.

Ten years ago, the Army maintained 30 percent of all eligible specialists/E-4s in a promotable status. Today the number has fallen to around 10 percent.

This downward trend in promotable Soldiers and the increasing promotion requirements have resulted in an increasing number of NCO shortages.

The Soldiers being integrated have at least four years in service and in many cases two years time in grade. They are likely combat veterans and most have reenlisted.

These soldiers are fully qualified for promotion to ser- News Web site (www.army.mil/arnews).

Unit leadership is still an integral part of the promotion process. Commanders have the responsibility to deny list integration if the Soldier is not trained, or is otherwise unqualified.

geant. Promotions from this population will only occur in Military Occupational Specialties when the operating strength falls below 100 percent and after all other eligible boarded Soldiers have been selected.

Also keep in mind when we are short sergeants in an MOS, someone – a qualified specialist – is stepping up and doing the sergeant's work, so why not promote and pay them for the job they are doing?

The Army has implemented this policy to ensure a viable population of promotable Soldiers exists in order to meet the increasing demand for NCOs.

With only one month of list integrated promotions realized, the number of MOS below 100-percent strength at sergeant decreased by 20 percent and the number of unrealized promotions due to a lack of boarded Soldiers has been cut in half.

At the same time, commanders are making the tough calls to ensure quality is maintained.

Bromberg is the director of the Human Resources Command's Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate.

This commentary originally appeared online on the Army

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copies every two weeks.

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#### On The Street

## What qualities make for an outstanding service member?



**Amber Kindsvogel** (Civilian)

"I am always impressed with Soldiers and officers who selflessly volunteer with youth programs."



**Raymond Desmond** (Civilian)

"Dedication, loyalty and punctuality."



Capt. Amit Bhavsar (Army)

"Integrity is number one above everything and selfless service. Everything else falls into place."



Walter Howard (Civilian)

"They should always have a positive attitude and understanding outlook on life."

### Share your opinions about MWR

Members of the Stuttgart military community are encouraged to participate in the Armywide 2005 MWR Leisure Needs Survey.

Take a few moments to help make our facilities & programs even better!

To take the survey visit www.armymwrsurvey.com



World War II veteran William Dirk Warren recounts his experiences in Germany for Stars and Stripes reporter Charlie Coon May 14 outside the U.S. European Command headquarters building on Patch Barracks.

## **EUCOM hosts WW II vets**

## Contingent from historic 'Century Division' returns to Stuttgart 60 years later

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

Six decades after they helped to liberate southern Germany from the grip of Nazi tyranny, eight members of the U.S. Army's famed 100th Division returned to Stuttgart as guests of U.S. European Command.

"I am delighted you are here," said Maj. Gen. Edward LaFountaine, EUCOM's director of logistics and security assistance, who served as host for the group's 90-minute stay on Patch Barracks.

Maj. Robert Ditchey of the EUCOM Public Affairs Office echoed LaFountaine's welcome. "The men and women of EUCOM serve in the shadow of men such as yourselves," he told the veterans before a briefing in the command's head-quarters building on Patch Barracks.

The 100th Division's "absolutely phenomenal accomplishments" during the war played a pivotal role in transforming Germany from a fierce enemy into an enduring partner, LaFountaine said. "You gave us a tremendous ally," he told the veterans and the family members who accompanied them.

In addition to liberating more than 400 cities, towns and villages, the "Century Division" also defeated elements of eight German divisions and took more than 13,000 prisoners, LaFountaine said. The 100th played key roles in the defense of Lemberg, the seizure of Bitche and the assault across the Neckar River during the Battle of Heilbronn.

As Col. Brian Perry of the EUCOM History Office recounted during his briefing for the veterans, members of the 100th Division entered Stuttgart April 21 and 22, 1945.

According to the division's Web site, the 100th endured 185 days of uninterrupted ground combat, during which 916 men were killed and another 3,656 were wounded.

Awards earned by "Century Soldiers" included three Medals of Honor, 36 Distinguished Service Crosses and more than 500 Silver Stars.

Veteran Miguel Escalara said his memories of the viciousness of the war gave him pause before he accepted the invitation to return to Germany – but musings about his legacy prompted him to take advantage of the opportunity.

"When I was told we were coming to Stuttgart, I wasn't sure that was a good idea," Escalara said. "When we were here [during the war] we didn't have many friends ... I have always wondered what the Germans thought of us."

Though other veterans also expressed initial trepidation about the reception they might receive in Germany, they concurred that their experience had been a positive one.



Maj. Gen. Edward LaFountaine, U.S. European Command's director of logistics and security assistance, presents a command coin to Betty Wendel, widow of a member of the 100th Division.

Jack Keohane, a veteran who married a German woman and has lived in Stuttgart since the mid-1970s, attributed the warm welcome to the local citizenry's understanding that "we came as liberators, not conquerors."

Though the spotlight was theirs during their return to Germany, the veterans made a point of casting an appreciative light on the men and women who continue to serve overseas.

As Horace Kornegay put it, "Those who understand ... are deeply grateful for the job you are doing over here."

For more information about the 100th Division visit www.100thww2.org.

For more about EUCOM visit www.eucom.mil.

#### **News & Notes**

#### Memorial Day ceremony on Patch

American Legion Stuttgart Post 6 will host the area's Memorial Day ceremony May 30, 11 a.m., in Patch Barracks' Washington Square. All community members are invited to the ceremony and free barbecue that will follow.

#### Spring Bazaar in Swabian Center

The Swabian Special Events Center's annual Spring Bazaar is May 27 to 29 on Patch Barracks.

Shopping hours are May 27, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; May 28, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and May 29, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For details call 430-5373/civ. 0711-680-5373.

#### Traffic alert: new stop signs on Patch

The intersection of Michigan and New York Strasse on Patch Barracks (near the library bus stop) is now a fourway stop. New stop signs have been erected, and military police will be monitoring this intersection.

For details call 430-8276/civ. 0711-680-8276.

#### Commissaries to hold case lot sale

Many items will be available for bulk purchase at great savings during the Patch, Panzer and Kelley commissaries' upcoming case lot sales:

- Panzer and Kelley May 27 and 28, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Patch May 27 to 29, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information call 430-8474/civ. 0711-680-8474.

#### Family Day at RB CX

The Robinson Barracks Commissary Exchange will host Family Day May 28, starting at 11 a.m.

The "I Love You" Bunny will kick off the event with free prizes for children, followed by wine tasting for parents at 12:30 p.m. "Tatty Teddy" will make a special visit at 1 p.m., with a raffle, more freebies, and craft time to follow.

For more information e-mail schneidersa@aafes.com.

#### Parents' Night Out

Child and Youth Services' next Parents' Night Out is June 10, 6:30 to 11 p.m., in the Kelley Child Development Center and Kelley School Age Services. Registration deadline is June 9. Cost is \$15 per child and includes a snack.

For more information call 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

#### Army Ball tickets on sale now

Tickets are now available for Stuttgart's Army Ball, which is scheduled for June 11 in the Sindelfingen Stadthalle. Prices vary depending upon rank.

For more information call 430-4021/civ. 0711-680-4021 or e-mail dumlaof@eucom.mil.

#### Sports opportunities abound

- The **Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center** on Panzer Kaserne is now accepting registrations for summer leagues. For details call 431-2719/civ. 07031-15-2719.
- The **Stuttgart Golf Course** hosts the 2005 Stuttgart Open June 10 to 12, with a free practice round slated for June 9. Format is 54 holes of stroke play, and cost is \$90 for members and \$120 for non-members.

For details call 07141-879-151 or 07141-879-150.

• Starting May 31, Stuttgart's Child and Youth Services will offer **tennis lessons** from instructor Hajo Scheibner. Cost is \$17 per child for one-hour lessons in groups of four, or \$25 for one-hour private lessons.

For details call 430-7458/civ. 0711-680-7458.

#### Running Shoe Clinic on Panzer

Stuttgart's next Running Shoe Clinic is May 31 in the Panzer Fitness Center gymnasium. Participants will receive a foot imprint, shoe construction education, videotape session, gait analysis and individualized stretching recommendations. For more information call 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073 or e-mail saylorm@6asg.army.mil.

#### Patch Theater to close June 5

The Patch Barracks Theater will close at the end of business June 5 for a comprehensive renovation project.

In the interim, the Robinson Barracks Theater will fea-

In the interim, the Robinson Barracks Theater will feature an expanded schedule.

For more information – and a sneak peek at the many enhancements in store when the remodeled theater reopens – see the June 7 edition of *The Citizen*.



Special Operations Soldier (and Vietnam veteran) Lt. Col. Morton Hurston Jr. listens to incoming VFW Commander Don Owens recite the poem "Thank You," by William Edwards during the May 5 ceremony.



Join the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars

### **Memorial Day Service**

Monday, May 30, 11 a.m. Washington Square, Patch Barracks

Guest speaker: Capt. Joseph Hoening Deputy Director, Headquarters EUCOM J-2

The Air Force Sergeants Association will offer a free barbecue lunch following the ceremony. All are invited to attend.



(Left to right) Kermith Ayers, Donald Owens, Jarold Stottlemyre and Bob Gambert from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10810 salute during Stuttgart's May 5 Vietnam Veteran's Recognition Ceremony on Patch Barracks. The event marked the 30th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

### Vets remember Vietnam

Story & photos by Melanie Casey

t may be hard to believe, but 30 years have passed since the end of the Vietnam War.

To reflect, remember and honor the more than three million service members who served – and the more than 58,000 who died – in Southeast Asia from 1961 to 1975, Stuttgart's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10810 held a May 5 Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day Ceremony in Washington Square on Patch Barracks.

The event was held in conjunction with the national VFW Vietnam Veteran's Recognition Week (May 1 to 7). More than 50 Vietnam veterans participated in the ceremony. They were joined by World War II vets, active-duty service members, community members and German citizen who took a few moments to pause and celebrate these often-unsung heroes.

This was the first time the Stuttgart VFW held a Vietnam Veteran's recognition ceremony, said Bob Gambert, VFW Post 10810 quartermaster. He said they decided to do it this year in honor of the 30th anniversary of the end of the war. "It was just time to acknowledge them," he said.

"Vietnam War veterans were everyday people made extraordinary by events beyond their control," Gambert said. "They did their duty not out of bravado or boldness, but out of a sense of duty. We honor them because we appreciate what they have given us."

During the ceremony, incoming VFW Post 10810 Commander Don Owens recited the poem "Thank You," by William Edwards, and retired Col. David Becker shared memories of his two tours in country and offered some advice to today's deployable service members.

Certificates were presented to all Vietnam veterans who attended the event (a few of whom remain on active duty).

#### More recognition

The ceremony was "a good morale booster," said Haywood Donerson, a veteran who served three tours in Vietnam. "We've been put down for a long time. It takes something like this to bring us up. We're getting recognized."

Col. Frederick Jones, a Vietnam veteran who is currently assigned to Special Operations Command, Europe, said he attended because "I just

Vietnam War veterans were everyday people made extraordinary by events beyond their control.

They did their duty not out of bravado or boldness, but out of a sense of duty.

**Bob Gambert** Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10810



## Statistics provide one measure of war's impact

- Peak U.S. troop strength in Vietnam was 543,482 (April 30,1969).
- 7,484 U.S. women served in Vietnam. 6,250 (approximately 83,5%) were nurses.
- The average age of U.S. service members killed in Vietnam was 23 years, 11 months.
- 1,835 U.S. service members who served in Vietnam remain unaccounted for.

source: Vietnam Veterans of America (www.vva.org)

wanted to be out there to help remember our Vietnem yets."

Gambert, who served as a door gunner in Vietnam, echoed Jones's sentiments.

"It's a sense of still being a part of that organization – we lived through it," he said. "A sense that we did what we did, what we could. We were young. For the grace of God, I made it home."



Cpl. Marsha N. Garcia (Marine Corps News)

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael Hagee speaks to Marines based out of Camp Al Taqaddum, Iraq, April 6.

# Hagee: Corps' future focused on fighting 'irregular' wars

Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Release

The single most important weapons system in the Marine Corps' arsenal is the individual Marine, and the Corps' resources are aimed at enhancing this core capability.

That is the thrust of All Marine Message 018/05, signed April 18 by Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael Hagee. The vision and intent in this ALMAR updates the guidance that was put forth when Hagee became commandant Jan. 13, 2003.

"We can talk about aircraft; we can talk about howitzers; we can talk about tanks; but the individual Marine is the most important part of the Corps," Hagee said.

To remain the nation's force-in-readiness and to meet emerging challenges, the Corps needs to reorganize to maintain a rapid response capability and technological edge on the battlefield, Hagee wrote.

The commandant intends to accomplish this through a focus on training, educating and equipping the individual Marine.

"When we marched to Baghdad, it was pretty much platoon against platoon, squad against squad, battalion against battalion," the commandant said. "In our case, sometimes, it was platoon against company and platoon against battalion – our platoon, their battalion. It was no match – they lost.

"The enemy learned that and they don't want to take us on in normal formation. They don't want to take us on one-on-one. So they are attacking us asymmetrically," he said.

Examples of this type of irregular warfare include improvised explosive devices; the propaganda insurgents are using in Iraq; and the Oct. 12, 2000 attack on the USS Cole in the port of Yemen, the general said.

Marines can also expect more cultural education. "A better understanding of the people we are trying to help and the people we are fighting – their culture, what they think is unimportant, what they think is important – will help us," Hagee wrote.

"On today's battlefield, with irregular warfare, victory quite often goes to those individuals who can do something faster, working The enemy learned that they don't want to take us on in normal formation.

So they are attacking us asymmetrically

Gen. Michael Hagee

Marine Corps Commandant

inside the enemy's decision cycle," the general continued.

To ensure that Marines will be the fastest on the battlefield, sea basing will increase.

"[Sea basing] is going to make us faster. Sea basing is going to give us the capability to put a Marine Expeditionary Brigade of about 15,000 Marines any place in the world in 10 to 12 days," the general said.

Another concept discussed is distributed operations, which the general described as "a logical extension of our philosophy of war – maneuver warfare."

During the next four years, the Corps is scheduled to stand up two additional active-duty infantry battalions, three light armored reconnaissance companies, three reconnaissance companies, two force reconnaissance platoons and an air and naval gunfire liaison company.

To accommodate this change there will be a reduction in the number of artillery, tank and low-altitude air defense units.

Military occupational specialties totaling about 6,000 Marines will also be affected – but Marines should know that the Corps is going to take care of them, Hagee said.

"If they are doing a good job and they want to stay in the Marine Corps, then we are going to ensure that happens," he wrote.

To read ALMAR 018/05, visit www. marines.mil and click "21st Century Marine Corps."

## Online survey offers troops opportunity to influence COLA rates

Two ways to access the

Living Pattern Survey

1. Visit www.stuttgart.army.mil

2. Visit https://www.perdiem.

osd.mil/oscola/lps/germany.

and click "COLA Survey."

**By Christine Castro** 

ost people would jump at the opportunity to influence whether or not they will receive a pay increase. Through June 17, service members and their families will have the chance to do just that.

An online survey offers service members and command-sponsored family mem-

bers a chance to impact the information the government will use to determine military overseas cost-of-living allowances.

The online survey allows troops to add input based on their personal spending patterns. The information will be used in combination with exchange rate fluctuations in order to adjust the current COLA that is provided to offset the costs of living overseas.

On the survey, individuals will be asked to indicate the locations they shop – on base, off base or on the Internet – identifying them by name. The survey will also provide a section for remarks to allow the respondent to provide more detailed explanations or other considerations. This gives service members the opportunity to accurately reflect their "true" monetary costs.

The survey is available online at https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/germany. The Department of Defense Per Diem Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee will reset COLA indexes at various locations in Europe this year. Service members are strongly encouraged to participate in the survey and provide input to help analysts formulate an accurate picture of the costs associated with living overseas.

As U.S. Army Europe, Commander Gen B.B. Bell wrote in "Bell Sends" message #22-05, "Maximum participation will help ensure our Soldiers get the COLA they need and deserve."

Information gathered by the survey will be used by local commands to conduct a Retail Price Survey in June and July. Based on LPS results, analysts will identify 120 typical items purchased by service members and their families, and selected shoppers will gather retail pricing information in the local area – information that will be compared with stateside products of the same likeness and analyzed for an average.

The results from the LPS and RPS surveys will be compiled and analyzed by the Per Diem Committee and sent to the Military Advisory Panel for approval.

Upon approval, the results are expected to be released to overseas commands between July 29 and Aug. 26.

Service members can expect to see the effects – positive or negative – of the change to the COLA Index in their paychecks by the end of fiscal year 2005.



## EUCOM honors top service members

RAF Mildenhall Airmen named Junior, Senior Service member of Year

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

t was an Air Force sweep at this year's U.S. European Command Junior and Senior Service Member of the Year Competition.

The winners, announced at a May 13 luncheon held in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks, were Junior SOY Senior Airman Monica Whitmore and Senior SOY Tech. Sgt. Kevin James

Both are currently assigned to RAF Mildenhall in England.

The theater-wide competition included nominees from the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps.

The other Junior SOY candidate was Sgt. John Cramer from Marine Forces, Europe.

Other Senior SOY candidates were Tech. Sgt. Maurice Evans, EUCOM; Staff Sgt. Joseph Forbes, MARFOREUR; Staff Sgt. James Rehl, U.S. Army, Europe; and Master Sgt. Jamie Woody, United States Air Forces in Europe.

"Their being here is the result of years of hard work and dedication that culminated in this [competition]," said Command Sgt. Major Michael Bartelle, EUCOM senior enlisted advisor, this year's SOY board president and the luncheon's guest speaker.

All of the nominees displayed "professional attitudes and beliefs that characterize the American military," Bartelle said. They are the "embodiment of all that's right in our military and our nation."

#### Tough competition

The candidates, all of whom had already won several service and command specific competitions, sat in front of a EUCOM board about three weeks before the luncheon.

The members of the board, which was comprised of senior service members from all branches of the military, wanted to

The nominees displayed professional attitudes and beliefs that characterize the American military. They are the embodiment of all that's right in our military and our nation.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bartelle

U.S. European Command

ensure that they "selected thinkers [who] had an eclecticism in their approach to the military," Bartelle said.

In the end, the decision came down to evaluating the essays that the contestants had provided with their nomination packets, Bartelle added.

#### Shining stars

Junior SOY winner Whitmore, a personnel security specialist with the 100th Security Forces, 100th Air Refueling Wing on RAF Mildenhall, is "one of the hardest working people on the base," said Command Chief Master Sgt. William Scott.

"She is well deserving of everything she gets. None of us are surprised," Scott said.

Senior SOY James, a flight engineer evaluator with the 21st Special Operations Squadron, 352nd Special Operations Group on RAF Mildenhall, is a "shining star," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Henry Morgan.

"He's what we demand of our young folks and meets the challenge every day," Morgan added

For winning the SOY competition, both Whitmore and



EUCOM's 2004 Senior Service Member of the Year Tech. Sgt. Kevin James and Junior Service Member of the Year Senior Airman Monica Whitmore celebrate their win May 13 on Patch Barracks.

James took home a plaque; a \$500 USAA savings bond; \$250 from Lovett Miller and Company; a \$250 coupon book from Morale, Welfare and Recreation; a \$250 AAFES uniform coupon book; a 1-week vacation at Armed Forces Recreation Center's Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch; and a Joint Service Achievement Medal.

But none went home empty handed: The other nominees received a \$25 commissary gift certificate and a \$50 gift certificate from AFRC.

## EUCOM, SOCEUR generals pin on second stars

Story and photo by Melanie Casey

ew Maj. Gens. Thomas Csrnko and Richard Zahner each pinned on a second star during a May 9 ceremony in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

Gen. James L. Jones, commander of both Supreme Allied Command and U.S. European Command, spoke during the ceremony, reaffirmed the oath of office and assisted with the pinning of the stars for both Csrnko and Zahner.

Also on hand for the standing room only event were EUCOM's Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald, Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater III, and Senior Enlisted Advisor Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bartelle. They were joined by nearly every EUCOM and Special Operations Command, Europe, director or directorate commander and much of the staff from both commands.

Promotion to a major general is a "stepping stone that you never forget," Jones said. "It's a tremendous accomplishment."

Zahner, who has been EUCOM's director of intelligence since June 2003, has "not only been there, done

that," Jones said, but continues to "pioneer tremendous visions and concepts during these difficult times."

Zahner will soon leave EUCOM to become director of Central Command's Intelligence Division.

Zahner SOCEUR Comm thanked the service members he has served with and the leaders he's worked for. "I couldn't have gotten here without them," he said.

Maj. Gen. Csrnko, who has been the SOCEUR commander since August 2003, has done "it all and he's done it well," Jones said. "He's a strategic thinker who took the situation he inherited, which was good, and made it better."

Csrnko thanked his family as well as his SOCEUR team, saying that a promotion to major general "doesn't happen by accident. It



Ryan Csrnko, 11, pins a second star on his dad, SOCEUR Commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Csrnko.



Maj. Gen. Richard Zahner receives a second star with help from his wife and sister.

takes luck, timing and work, and is based on the people we have worked for and with."





courtesy DISA-Europe DISA never sleeps: It takes a committed military and civilian effort to meet DISA's 24/7 mission maintaining the U.S.

## DISA: Keeping the military connected

military's communications network.

By Senior Master Sgt. Alan Johnson

Defense Information Systems Agency Europe

ave you ever made a DSN phone call, attended a video teleconference or sent an e-mail from your work computer? If so, you probably have the men and women of the Defense Information Systems Agency Europe to thank.

Have you ever called home from a remote deployed location – or had a prescription filled in the Stuttgart Health Clinic? Again, DISA-Europe most likely helped make those actions possible.

DISA is the primary provider for strategic military communication links in the world.

In Europe the DISA Theater Network Operations Center monitors and manages 12 global networks and more than 1,600 communication links in the U.S. European Command theater of operations as well as in Southwest Asia (including Iraq and Afghanistan).

The DISA-Europe TNC is the nerve center of military communications in Europe, and local personnel oversee more than 75 percent of all reachback communications to the United States for combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The reach of DISA is as wide and varied as are the individuals who comprise the military community.

- Service members and civilians in Europe who make DSN calls, utilize video teleconferencing technology or access the military network to send e-mails or reach the Internet are using DISA assets.
- Personal health care activities such as filling prescriptions often involve a medical computer system that flows over DISA lines.
- On a more tactical level, whenever an unmanned aerial vehicle flies over a target and sends data back to the warfighters or war planners, it comes to them via DISA infrastructure.
- When the troops in Iraq want to phone home, they're using DISA infrastructure.

In short, we connect the military world.

The TNC on Patch Barracks runs 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Dozens of technical specialists are working any given time – watching every link, every router, and every switch in the various networks to ensure that whenever a warfighter in Europe, Iraq or Afghanistan needs to communicate, they can.

And whenever a component of this network goes down, DISA-Europe personnel are there to restore it.

The organization recently completed a major modernization of the TNC with an investment of over \$2.6 million. Hundreds of computers, monitors and consoles were replaced – as was furniture and flooring.

The facility's air conditioning system was completely overhauled, and the electronics in the power plant were upgraded.

This renovation was driven by the need to support the evergrowing communication requirements and upgrade an aging facility.

Thanks to the hard work of a number of DISA-Europe personnel and contractors, the TNC is a fully modernized and functionally superior communications command and control center.

This investment has left DISA well postured to meet the complex demands of current and future missions.

Johnson is the theater network operations center superintendent for DISA Europe.



Hugh C. McBride

Sgt. Christopher Lawrence passes a tank May 10 on Kelley Barracks during the two-mile run, one of a series of tests designed to determine the best Soldier and noncommissioned officer in the 6th Area Support Group. Lawrence and five other Soldiers were selected by their supervisors to compete for the right to call themselves the best in the ASG.

## Local troops vie for title of 'Best in 6th ASG'

By Hugh C. McBride

six Soldiers assigned to the 6th Area Support Group spent three days in early May undergoing a comprehensive evaluation of skills ranging from physical fitness to Army knowledge to their ability to remain poised under pressure.

The prize for the winners? In addition to bragging rights, next month they get to do it all again.

Contested May 10 to 12 on Kelley Barracks and Panzer Kaserne, the 6th ASG's Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition took participants from the fitness center to the firing line – with stops in a classroom and at a conference table.

The result, said Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Lewis, who coordinated and oversaw the contest, was an opportunity not only to identify top performers in the area, but also to improve the Soldier skills for all who took part.

"This was an eye-opening experience for some of our Soldiers," Lewis said. "It gave them experience with skills they may not be using every day, and exposure to things they might not know."

In previous years, the ASG's top Soldiers and NCOs were determined based on a submission packet and an interview. This time around, though, those who wanted to claim one of the titles had to walk the proverbial walk in addition to talking the talk.

The battle began early, as the competitors reported to the Kelley Fitness Center at 6:30 a.m. May 10 for pushups, situps and a two-mile run around the installation.

Day 1 ended with a mental workout, as the troops were required to complete a written exam.

May 11 focused on field skills, including land navigation, firing the M-16 and performance of selected common tasks. "At every station, each person was rated, then got feedback on how to improve anything they may have done wrong," Lewis said.

The third day's evaluation was centered around an appearance before a board of area NCOs.

The local Soldier (private to specialist) and NCO (corporal to sergeant first class) of the Year won't have too much time to rest on their laurels – but they will have home-field advantage for the next round of testing. Stuttgart will host the Installation Management Agency Europe Region competition June 8 to 10.

"With all those sergeants major here, that will be an intense experience," Lewis said.



Brandon Beach



[Above] Pfc. Marco Garced works through the Common Task Testing segment of the three-day compe-

[Left] Spc. Eric Holtegaard sweats out a few final situps during physical fitness testing May 10 on Kelley.

tition May 11.

Hugh C. McBride

#### And the winners are ...

The 6th Area Support Group's Soldier & NCO of the Year will be announced May 26 during an award ceremony on Kelley Barracks.

See the June 7 edition of *The Citizen* for the results.

## Base Realignment and Closure 2005

## Military landscape set for 'comprehensive reshaping'

## DoD recommends closing 33 major installations

American Forces Press Service

he Defense Department has recommended closing 33 major bases and realigning 29 others as part of a comprehensive reshaping of the military infrastructure through the base realignment and closure

Michael Wynne, defense undersecretary for acquisition, technology and logistics, announced Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's closure and realignment recommendations at a Pentagon news conference May 13.

The recommendations now go to the BRAC Commission chaired by former Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi. The commission was scheduled to start hearings on the specific recommendations May 16.

If adopted, the recommendations would give DoD a net savings of almost \$50 billion over 20 years, officials said. Annual savings are pegged at \$5.5 billion a year after that.

#### Major closures

Fourteen major Army bases are recommended for closure, including Forts Gillem and McPherson in Atlanta; Fort Monroe, Va.; Fort Monmouth, N.J.; and the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant and Red River Army Depot in Texas.

The DoD plan also calls for the closure of nine major Navy bases, including Submarine Base, New London, Conn.; Willow Grove Naval Air Station, Pa.; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Maine; Naval Station Pascagoula, Miss.; and

Under the plan, ten major Air Force installations are closing, including Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.; Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif.; Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.; Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass.; and Brooks City Base, Texas.

#### Significant realignments

DoD defines major realignments as installations losing at least 400 people.

The five major Army realignments are Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington; the Rock Island Arsenal III · Fort Knox Ky · and Fort Eustis, Va.; and the Army Reserve Personnel Cen-

Eleven Navy realignments include Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill.; Naval Station San Diego; and naval air stations in Brunswick, Maine, Corpus Christi, Texas, and Pensacola, Fla.

The Marine Corps Logistics Base in Barstow, Calif., also will realign, as will the naval medical centers in Portsmouth, Va., and San Diego.

Ten major Air Force realignments include Eielson and Elmendorf Air Force bases, both in Alaska; Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.; Lackland and Sheppard Air Force bases, Texas; and McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

DoD agencies in leased spaces throughout the Washington, D.C. area and Defense Finance vice groups, officials said.

Fourteen major Army bases have been recommended for closure.

However, the following installations are among those expected to grow by more than 400 troops:

- Fort Belvoir
- Fort Bragg
- Fort Jackson
- Fort Sam Houston
- Fort Sill
- Fort Benning

and Accounting Service offices in Cleveland and in Arlington, Va., face major realignment as well. Some set to increase

Forty-nine installations are gaining more than 400 personnel. The Army made provision for units reassigned from Europe and the Pacific.

Among the major gainers in the Army are Fort Belvoir, Va.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Benning, Ga.; and

Navy gainers will include Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla.; Naval Station Norfolk, Va.; Naval Station Newport, R.I.; Marine Corps Logistics Base Quantico, Va.; and Naval Station

In the Air Force, gainers include Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.; Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; Scott Air Force Base, Ill.; Andrews Air Force Base, Md.; and Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

#### Emphasis on jointness

This BRAC process had seven joint crossservice groups to examine common business processes in education and training; headquarters and support; technical; industrial; supply and storage; intelligence; and medical.

Wynne said jointness was key to creating military value, which was the most important consideration as the BRAC process progressed.

"These joint cross-service groups were key," Wynne said. "They each were chaired by a senior executive or flag officer, with representation from each of the military services, from the Joint Staff and from the relevant defense agencies involved."

More than half of the future annual savings (\$2.9 billion of the estimated \$5.5 billion) is expected to be generated from the joint cross-ser-



Tech Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby (www.defenselink.mil)

Four ways of looking at the Base Realignment and Closure process: [Left] Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld listens to a question during his May 16 testimony before a Senate Base Realignment and Closure committee. [Center] Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division descend over Ft. Bragg, N.C., one of the Army installations that is expected to increase when the BRAC process is complete. [Top Right] Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey testifies before the BRAC Commission May 18. [Bottom Right] An aerial view of Ft. Monroe, Va., which is one of the major Army installations that will close if the Defense Department's BRAC recommendations are approved. Ft. Monroe was built in the aftermath of the War of 1812.

## 'Just the facts' about BRAC

- The formal name of the organization referred to as "BRAC" is the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. The 2005 BRAC Commission is authorized by Congress through the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990.
- President George W. Bush appointed nine individuals to serve on the BRAC commission: Anthony J. Principi (Chairman); James H. Bilbray; Philip Coyle; retired Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr.; James V. Hansen; retired Gen. James T. Hill; retired Gen. Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton; Samuel K. Skinner and retired Brig. Gen. Sue E. Turner.
- The BRAC Commission was created to provide an "objective, thorough, accurate, and non-partisan review and analysis" of the list of bases and military installations that the Defense Department has recommended be closed and/or realigned. The commission must submit its findings and recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8, 2005.
- By Sept. 23, 2005, President Bush must either forward the report to Congress or return it to the commission for further evaluation. If the report is returned the BRAC commission has until Oct. 20 to resubmit its report to the president. Congress has 45 days from the day it receives the report from the president to reject the report, or the report becomes law.
- The commission can add installations to the DoD's recommended closure or realignment list, but only through a complex process in which seven of nine commissioners vote to do so, the secretary of defense is properly notified in writing 15 days prior to the proposed change, and at least two commissioners physically visit the potentially "added" installation.
- According to the BRAC charter, it is estimated that the commission's operating costs (including ravel costs and contract support) will be **\$10 million**, which will be provided by Congress.
- The commission is scheduled by law to terminate by April 15, 2006. However, the commission nay extend its operations for an additional 60 days if necessary.

source: www.brac.gov

## EUCOM commander: Forward presence to remain 'essential component' of national strategy

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

The top U.S. general in Europe supports plans to reshape the U.S. force structure overseas and said it's a critical step in ensuring the U.S. military is prepared to face new and emerging threats.

Forward presence of U.S. troops, both permanent and rotational, will continue to be an essential component of U.S. national strategy, Gen. James L. Jones, commander of U.S. European Command, said in a statement issued

"But static forward-based forces, such as those needed during the Cold War, do not provide the capabil-

Jones delivered his comments in response to the report of the Commission on Review of Overseas Military graphically constrained," to meet the new challenges. Facility Structure of the United States, released May 9. The report charged that the global posturing process is he said. "We must be able to prevent them from doing so special forces, supported by readily available and stratepabilities and quality-of-life programs.

"Our center of attention has shifted from the defense

Our proposed force mix, which will be a combination of permanently based and rotational land, sea, air and special forces, supported by readily available and strategically pre-positioned equipment stocks, will provide us with the required operational agility necessary for our future missions.

Gen. James L. Jones

U.S. European Command

ity required in the complex and asymmetric world we now eastern and southern regions of our theater," Jones said. deployable, he said. At the same time, these forces will This requires adjusting the country's 20th-century debe increasingly visible to both friends and foes in U.S. fense posture, which Jones called "too linear and geo- European Command's vast, 91-nation theater, Jones said.

"No longer can we wait for our enemies to attack us," moving forward too quickly and could leave gaps in caby being both visible and flexible in order to prevent, gically pre-positioned equipment stocks, will provide us deter and contain emerging contingencies."

Transformation efforts that are underway and being future missions," he said. of Western Europe from attack toward a variety of new planned are designed to increase the country's strategic threats from non-state actors and organizations from the effectiveness by making military forces more rapidly

"Our proposed force mix, which will be a combination of permanently based and rotational land, sea, air and with the required operational agility necessary for our formation plan is very important. How we will do it is

Jones said the command is working closely with the Defense and State Departments and with U.S. allies about

overseas basing plans being considered and has "received assurances of allies' support and understanding."

Many of these allies, he pointed out, are currently involved in transforming their own national forces while participating in NATO's "most profound transformation of its military capability in its history.'

U.S. European Command's plan regarding overseas basing "is both flexible and open to change in its specifics," and may undergo more changes, Jones said.

Jones acknowledged that change is difficult for those affected but pledged to look out for service members and their families as the global posturing plans take effect.

"The prospect of change always brings with it a certain degree of apprehension, and this is true for our EUCOM families during this most difficult and stressful period," he said.

"We will honor our commitment to them by pledging that implementation of any part of our plan, no matter how large or small, will not bring undue hardship upon them, nor will it adversely affect the quality of their lives," Jones said. "What ... we will do in implementing our trans-

For more about EUCOM visit www.eucom.mil.

#### Learn more about BRAC

The following Web sites are excellent resources for the most accurate and up-to-date BRAC information.

#### Army News Service www.army.mil/arnews

The ARNews site features articles, commentaries and photographs of Armywide interest. Recent postings have including extensive BRAC coverage.

#### Base Realignment & Closure Commission www.brac.gov

The BRAC Commission's official site includes a meeting schedule, an explanation of the BRAC process and commission contact information.

#### **BRACTransition** www.cpms.osd.mil/bractransition

Designed for DoD civilian employees, the BRAC-Transition includes information about job placement, benefits and entitlements, and separation incentives.

#### DoD BRAC Web Site www.defenselink.mil/brac

Highlights include an eight-part "Big Picture" series, briefing transcripts and slides, and updates of commission progress and Senate testimony.

## Battle of the Bands 2005

## PHS musicians compete in annual rock-off



Jimi Hendrix ... Eric Clapton ... Eddie Van Halen ... Ian Scott? The Patch High School student makes his claim for guitar god status with a blazing solo during the May 13 Battle of the Bands in the PHS Forum. Scott and a phalanx of other axemen strutted their stuff during the second incarnation of the popular event.

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

The most recent Friday the 13th was not a night for the faint of heart in the Patch High School Forum. For the community's rockers, though, it was a lucky day, indeed.

Six bands – and their respective throngs of admirers – shook the PHS Forum walls May 13 during the school's second annual "Battle of the Bands. In addition to showcasing some of the school's burgeoning rock stars, the event also served to raise money for young artists in the community.

"All proceeds from the event went directly to the [PHS] art department," said Nancy Moscone, president of the school's Parent Teacher Student Association, which co-sponsored the event.

Conceived last year as a way "to do something fun to get ready for summer," the battle has evolved into a highly anticipated – and profitable – annual event, Moscone said.

"This gives musically-inclined kids their moment in the spotlight, and everything we make [from tickets and T-shirt sales] goes right back to the school," Moscone said.



Henning Snell, lead singer for The Soft Machine, holds nothing back during his group's time on stage at Patch High School's 2005 Battle of the Bands.

Congratulations to the PHS Battle of the Bands 2005 Champion:

#### *FEEDBACK*

#### **Operation Purple Camp**

#### Registration deadline extended to May 27

IMA-E's Operation Purple Camp Italia in Camp Darby, Italy, and Camp Bavaria in Garmisch will provide middle and high school students with a weeklong, all-expenses-paid vacation.

Priority will be given to children of currently deployed service members, followed by returned service members' children.

For more information visit www.mwr-europe.com.

## Elementary entertainers perform on Panzer

**By Christine Castro** 

spiring singers, dancers, and even comedians took to the stage May 6 during Böblingen Elementary School's talent show.

Students with a variety of talents dazzled parents, teachers and friends.

Outfitted in costume, one student sang a country western song and others – apparently inspired by popular artists including Avril Lavigne and Kelly Clarkson – sang as soloists, duets, trios and larger ensembles.

Several students performed instrumentals. The show included a variety of piano medleys, and two students surprised the audience with a piece played on harps.

One student danced a hula she had learned while living in Hawaii, while a group of sixth-graders prompted considerable laughter with a skit based on "American Idol."

"It was inspirational seeing so many talented youngsters entertaining their friends and families in such a fun and wholesome way," said BES Principal Margaret Deatherage.

"Even if the [performers] do not do well, it is a

great accomplishment for them to step outside of themselves and get up on stage and perform in front of others," said one parent.

Students showed that talent can come in a number of different forms. One group of students exhibited their talent with quilts they put together themselves. Others expressed their creativity with computer music.

"The children put on the entire show from beginning to end," Deatherage said. Sixty-three students participated as performers, backstage crew, sound mechanics and announcers. Others offered their artistic abilities to publicize the event with creative posters.

"Looking at the student-made signs around the school, there are indeed a variety of ways to spell talent, [which] is part of the charm and fun of the show," Deatherage said.

Many students who did not perform in the show were inspired by their friends to enter next year's show.

"We can hardly wait until next spring when the next evolution of talent springs forth on stage," Deatherage said. "Plans [for next year] are already starting to formulate in students' thoughts."



Margaret Deatherage

Böblingen Elementary's Rachel Ferguson and homeschooler Hannah Boyd perform May 6.

## Organizations name scholarship winners

rganizations in the 6th Area Support Group are good at giving away money.

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club, Armed Forces Communications Electronic Association and Garmisch Community Spouses' Club recently held scholarship recognition ceremonies and rewarded both adults and high school seniors for scholastic achievement.

#### **AFCEA**

The Stuttgart Chapter of the AFCEA awarded four Patch High School seniors scholarship awards during a May 12 luncheon held at the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

Third place winner Brandan Reed received a \$2,000 U.S. Savings Bond; Adam Fugent and Tatiaunna Maldonado tied for second place – and each was awarded a \$2,500 savings bond; and Joseph Morrow won first place and a \$3,000 savings bond. Each winner also received a free one-year membership to the Stuttgart AFCEA.

Each student was required to create a project that focused on math, engineering or computer sciences and presented the projects to a panel of judges.

With help from donations and fundraising, the local chapter was

rganizations in the 6th Area Support Group are arship money awarded from last year.

#### SCSC

The SCSC held its annual Scholarship Luncheon May 17 in the Swabian Special Events Center, giving more than \$31,000 to Stuttgartarea spouses and high school seniors.

The panel of anonymous judges considered applicants' academic records, extra curricular activities, volunteer and work experience, letters of recommendation and essays, portions of which were read to the assembled audience during the event.

"All of the winners were deserving and worked hard," said Sarah Rember, SCSC Scholarship Committee chairman. "It's nice to have them recognized for their achievements."

This was the first year that the SCSC offered a spouses' scholar-ship, and the two winners, Raquel Hicks and Lisa Beebe, each received \$3,500.

The high school senior winners were the following:

International School, Stuttgart: Alessandra Noelting, \$1,000; Patch High School: Chris Vusich, \$1,000; Katie Dickmeyer, \$1,500; Adam Fugent, \$1,500; Amy Rhodes, \$1,500; Chrissy Hunt, \$2,000; Jessica Russell, \$2,000; Rachel Duke,

\$3,500; Ehrin Hopkins, \$3,500; Joe Morrow, \$3,500; and Michael Scnibben, \$3,500.

Money for the scholarships came from proceeds from the Patch Thrift Shop as well as the 2004 SCSC Spring Bazaar.

#### GCSC

The GCSC also held its scholarship recognition event May 17.

The club presented four outstanding young adults in the community with the Sandra Fagan Scholarship, and a total of \$7,000 was distributed among the winners.

The sholarships were awarded based upon scholastic ability, intellectual potential and a desire to help better humanity.

This year's scholarship winners were: Ariana Allen, \$1,900; Michael Ryan Manning, \$1,850; Rebekah Allred, \$1,800; and Christopher Wiegand \$1,450.

"The [GCSC] is an excellent source of support for young students," said Rachel Becker, one of the judges. "The scholarships provide an opportunity for students to continue their education and also improve their chances of success in the future. It is clear that each applicant has a bright future."

Several Citizen staff members contributed to this story.



Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club President Laurie Menzel, right, presents a check representing more than \$108,000 to 2005 SCSC Spring Bazaar Chairman Maureen Parker, second from right, and the SCSC Welfare Committee April 19 in the Patch Community Club.

#### SCSC reaps record rewards

ith an increase in vendor sales of nearly 21 percent, the 2005 Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club Spring Bazaar was the most successful ever.

The annual event, held March 18 to 20 on Patch Barracks, brought in a record total of \$108,722, which bested the 2004 total by more than \$20,000.

The money, which is earmarked for scholarships and distribution to community organizations, was symbolically presented to the club's Welfare Committee April 19 during the SCSC Crystal Bingo event in the Patch Community Club.

## **Art Appreciation 101**

### PES fourth grade artists 'See for Yourself," host art show

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

wenty-two budding artists from Barbara Kloss' Patch Elementary School fourth grade class had a chance to show off some of their masterpieces during the annual See For Yourself Watercolor Art Show held May 11 in the Patch High School Forum.

The show, in its 16th year, was the culmination of months of study and hard work and featured colorful displays of landscapes, flowers and self-portraits.

#### "See For Yourself"

The students met every Wednesday for two hours throughout the school year to focus on "See For Yourself" art. They first learned techniques and skills such as how to hold a pencil using the handle bar grip, contour drawing, various types of brush strokes, values, resist techniques, lift-off techniques and mixing of complementary colors, Kloss said.

The students were then introduced to landscapes and flowers by watching films, which "encourages [them] to see landscapes and flowers in a new way and shows them how to capture what they see in their paintings," Kloss said.

For the rest of the school year, the students took what they had learned and applied that knowledge to their own series of landscapes and flowers – and a self-portrait. After each session, the students would gather to critique each others' work positively and share techniques.

The best paintings (chosen by the artists themselves) were mounted and put on display at the art show.

#### Art appreciation

For the first time this year, the art show was held in the PHS Forum instead of the PES lobby. Kloss said that the switch was made due to protective film that had been installed on the elementary school's windows, which made it impossible to mount the paintings there.

Instead, the paintings were mounted on display boards (courtesy of the Gussy Goose and 6th Area Support Group) and displayed throughout the forum. The evening event featured live flute music courtesy of PHS student Jessica Moore, appetizers and sparkling grape drinks in champagne flutes.

Parents and students mingled, and the young artists showed off their work and explained what they had learned to their parents and friends.

#### Influence of art

It is important for teachers to provide "whole brain learning opportunities for their students," Kloss said, and many students "are not given enough opportunities to develop the right side of the brain – the creative, imaginative side. We want our students to be well-rounded and to let them know that their potential is limitless."

By participating in the "See for Yourself" art program, Kloss added, some students who have experienced difficulty in academic areas have discovered that they can excel in other areas (such as art), which she says helps build their confidence.

The students also developed a respect for art and artists. "I feel confident that when my students visit an art museum," Kloss said, "that they will view the masterpieces through different eyes."



Fourth-grader Daniel Zazworksky shows off his art work to his mother, Monica, during the annual Patch Elementary School See For Yourself Watercolor Art Show held May 11 in the Patch High School Forum.

## Stuttgart residents get 'sneak peek' into renovated houses on Patch, Kelley



**By Melanie Casey** 

The neighbors finally got to peek at the new place. The 6th Area Support Group Directorate of Public Works Housing Office showed off two of its recently-renovated single-family homes during Open House events May 9 on Kelley Barracks' Vesta Strasse and May 11 on Patch Barracks' Florida Strasse.

The homes, which feature four bedrooms and 1,636 square feet each, were decorated for the occasions with furnishings on loan from AAFES.

The Florida Strasse open house was attended by the structures new residents, Col. and Mrs. John Metz, who participated in a ceremonial ribbon-cutting with 6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris.

#### New features & improvements

The homes, which took nearly eight months to complete, feature new cabinets, flooring, bathrooms and kitchen areas (complete with breakfast nooks), said Sabine Berrer, project manager for the renovations.

Additional improvements include new roofs and entrances, sealed foundations to prevent water seepage, 110-volt outlets in each room and much more,

Forty-six single-family homes (designated for selected officers) on Kelley and Patch Barracks are slated for renova-

Col. and Mrs. John Metz are all smiles as they prepare to cut the ribbon and officially open their renovated home May 11 on Patch Barracks.

tion, said DPW Deputy Director Jim Grady.

Seven are currently being worked on, and all will be completed within the next few years, Grady said.

#### Meeting modern needs

The open houses were a way to publicize the new renovations and allow community members to see that "we're meeting the needs of today's military," Scott said.

Normally, the housing office assigns quarters to incoming families, but the families don't get to see their home beforehand, said DPW Housing Director Mary Scott.

"A lot of residents see and hear renovations going on around them, but they never get to see the finished project," Grady said. "This is a way to satisfy their curiosity."

Renovations on all homes and stairwell apartments should be complete within the next few years, Scott added, so "if you don't live in a renovated building now, if you're here long enough, you will."

"It's very modern," 6th ASG Command Sgt. Major Daniel Chavez said during his tour of the Vesta Strasse home. "The modernization was much needed, and having it decorated by AAFES was a great idea."

Open houses will continue as construction is completed, Grady said, with the next one scheduled for later this summer in the Old Craig Village stairwell housing area on Patch Barracks.

For more information about housing in Stuttgart call 431-2200 /civ. 07031-15-2200 or visit the housing office in building 2913 on Panzer Kaserne.

## Stuttgart honors community volunteers

Story & photo by Christine Castro

tuttgart's volunteers were honored for their dediated service and contributions to community activities during a May 12 reception hosted by 6th Area Support Group Army Community Service in the Patch Com-

"This event provides us the opportunity to thank all the community volunteers," said Kathy Whatley, ACS volunteer coordinator.

"There's nothing more special than volunteers," said ACS Director Nancy Piper. "They are the driving force of the community."

Guest speaker Lori Roop, a member of the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club, shared her story of arriving Stuttgart.

"I was so impressed by the caliber of women on [the SCSC] board and the women of that organization," Roop said.

"As a volunteer, I have the opportunity to serve others, and if I'm lucky, to make a difference. And that paycheck is [more gratifying than monetary benefits]. There is nothing better than the experience of volunteering," Roop said.

"There would be no way to put a dollar value on a volunteer," said Jane Broadwater, wife of European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater III.

"They are so special because their work comes from the heart,"



6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris and a community volunteer share a laugh during Stuttgart's May 12 volunteer recognition ceremony.

Broadwater said.

6th ASG Commander Col. - Jessica Ray Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris presented the year's top volunteers would be her last volunteer cerwith keepsake gifts; nominees re- emony as 6th ASG commander, ceived engraved glass vases.

Award winners included the following:

- Volunteer of the Year Maureen Parker
- Rookie Volunteer of the Year - Tracey Whitehurst
- Heart Volunteer of the Year Deborah Fishburn
- Unsung Hero of the Year -Ulrich Noelscher
- Silver Volunteer of the Year William Torbett
- Volunteer Family of the Year - The Ray Family

• Youth Volunteer of the Year

Noting that the ceremony Bonéy-Harris expressed her deep appreciation for the volunteers.

"You have made my job as commander easier, and, most importantly, you have made the lives of our community members better," she said.

"I will miss you when I leave here, but I will carry the wonderful memories of you in my heart," she added. "Because of the example you set, the service you inspired and the impact you have had on this community, you will be with me always."

#### Nominees

#### Volunteer of the Year

#### \*Maureen Parker

Angel Hsu Sarah Russell Gudrun Kaper Janice Childs Dena Taylor Jon Griffin

#### Silver Volunteer of the Year

\* William C. Torbett Francis DeCicco

#### **Unsung Volunteer** of the Year

\*Ulrich Noelscher

Melissa Rodeffer Kathy Anderson George Whitbeck Jacqueline Nasca Steffi Eaddy Monica Matteo Janine Beatty Karla Satterfield **Heather Haiss** Frieda Campbell Leslie Herron Kevin Warthon Patti Hillsman Nancy Moscone

\* Winner

#### **Youth Volunteer** of the Year

\*Jessica Ray Patrick Tyson

#### Volunteer Family of the Year

\*The Ray Family The Aldridge Family The Spessert Family

#### **Heart Volunteer** of the Year

#### \*Deborah Fishburn

Val Caporicci Toni Dupree Kathy Banchs **Brandy Heldt** Robin Fowler Juana Anderson Gail Menage Carol Kuhn Pan Michaels Karen Hansis

#### **Rookie Volunteer** of the Year

#### \*Tracev Whitehurst

Joe Nelson Kim Sales Adam Dickensheet Stephanie Bosniak Susi Holmes

## —— Asian-American/Pacific Islander Observance —— Stuttgart celebrates cultural heritage

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

ever let it be said that Stuttgart residents are fairweather feasters.

The temperature was far from tropical May 17, but that didn't stop hundreds of community members from flocking to the Patch Fitness Center for the 6th Area Support Group's Asian-American/Pacific Islander Heritage Observance.

Originally scheduled as an outdoor celebration, what the relocated observance lacked in sunshine it more than made up for with colorful costumes, warm smiles and piping-hot delicacies from a wide range of Asian cultures.

"This is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity that we have as a culture," said Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Tobin of the U.S. European Command Commandant's Office.

Tobin said he believes the most important aspect of events such as the May 17 celebration is the message of pride they convey. "Be proud of your heritage and your country," he said. "I'm proud to be a Samoan and I'm proud to be an American."

This theme of cultural continuity was also expressed by Katherine Balanza, who sang and played the ukelele during the celebration.

"What I'm trying to do is pass along what I know," said Balanza, who is looking for students in Stuttgart who want to learn more about the ukelele and hula dancing.

"Anybody who has an interest in learning about the [Hawaiian] culture and the language is welcome," she said.

For more about upcoming celebrations call the 6th ASG Equal Opportunity Office at 421-2649/0711-729-2649.

For more about Balanza's hula and ukelele lessons e-mail vahine1@aol.com.

## A proud tradition of service

The following individuals are representative of the many Asian-Pacific-Americans who have served the United States.

#### • Ming E. Chang

The first Asian-American naval officer to reach flag rank, Chang ended his 34-year career in 1990, when he retired as a rear admiral.

In addition to commanding a number of cruisers and destroyers, Chang also served as the Department of the Navy Inspector General.

#### • Elaine Chao

An immigrant from China, Chao's career in public service includes a two-year term (1989 to 1991) as deputy secretary of transportation.

Chao also served as director of the Peace Corps (1991 to 1992) and the United Way (1992 to 1996).

#### Daniel Inouye

As a 17-year-old with some medical training, Inouye was one of the first Americans to provide medical care to civilian casualties of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Inouye's service during World War II (which included the loss of his right arm) earned him the Medal of Honor.

A native of Honolulu, Inouye was elected Hawaii's first U.S. representative in 1959, and has served in the U.S. Senate since 1962.

#### • Eric Shinseki

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Shinseki received two Purple Hearts and four Bronze Stars for his service in Vietnam.

Shinseki's career included service as commander of U.S. Army, Europe, and chief of staff of the Army. He retired as a four-star general in 2003.

source: www.infoplease.com



[Above] A member of the Island Dancers troupe performs in the Patch Fitness Center. The group presented traditional dances from several Asian cultures.

[Right] Stuttgart resident Katherine Balanza adds a Hawaiian flair to the May 17 celebration with a traditional ukelele-accompanied song.

### Kelley Theatre

June 3, 4, 10, 11 (7:30 p.m.)

June 4, 5, 11, 12 (3 p.m.)

DSN: 421-2796 CIV: 0711-729-2796





## Marshall Center conference addresses counter-narcotics, regional stability

#### **Marshall Center Release**

t. Gen. Lance L. Smith, deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, issued a call to arms to open the Conference on Counter-Narcotics and Regional Stabilization in Central and South Asian States May 17 in Munich.

The conference was sponsored by the Garmish-based George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies.

"Last year, Afghan opium cultivation was at the highest level in years," Smith said. "As partner governments we cannot ignore this growing problem and must find collective solutions."

More than 100 representatives of the affected nations were in attendance to hear Smith's opening remarks, in which he highlighted the economic and human costs associated with the drug trade to show why international cooperation is needed to combat the problem.

"Heroin and other drugs are not just a European or American problem. The growing scourge of addition is a worldwide epidemic," Smith said. "Opiates not only extract a high economic cost from affected governments, but also extract dev-

astating human costs as well. In fact, the mortality rate of dependant heroin users is between six and 20 times higher than expected."

Keynote speaker Richard E. Hoagland, the U.S. ambassa-



U.S. Central Command Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Lance Smith delivers welcoming remarks to participants at the Conference on Counter Narcotics and Regional Stabilization in Central and South Asia May 17 in Munich.

dor to Tajikistan, expanded on Smith's global theme.

"Transit countries may think of trafficking as a 'victimless crime," Hoagland said. "This is a myth. Narcotics trafficking may be the single most insidious threat to stability in the Heroin and other drugs are not just a European or American problem. The growing scourge of addiction is a worldwide epidemic.

> Lt. Gen. Lance Smith U.S. Central Command

broader Central Asian region. Only concerted, targeted efforts can keep it from undermining society [and] empowering criminal syndicates."

Cooperation among affected nations is key to fighting the problem, Hoagland said.

"No one country can successfully combat the transnational criminal syndicates that are running narcotics," he said. "These syndicates are ruthless ... and sophisticated, and have protection from a number of governments."

We believe in approaching counter-narcotics through a coordinated, sustained effort that reaches across national boundaries. And this is

why we are here together this week," he said.

For more about the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies visit www.marshallcenter.org.



## Ticks: the scourge of summer

By Melanie Casey

hh, summer. Warm weather, sunny skies, family vacations ... and ticks. In most climates, the summer season is synonymous with tick season. That means now - as tick season moves into in full swing – is a good time to learn about tickborne pathogens and how to protect both people and pets from these pesky parasites.

#### Tick behavior

Ticks don't get a lot of credit. After all, they belong to that ubiquitous family of "creepy crawlies" that most people would rather avoid. Technically not insects but arachnids (and thus cousins to spiders and lice) the eight-legged critters are actually quite clever – and really patient.

Ticks can go many months (even up to a year) without a meal. They perch themselves on leaves of low-lying bushes, trees and blades of grass and wait for an animal or person to happen by.

When a tick senses that prey is within reach (they can sense carbon dioxide and movement), it hangs onto the leaf with two hind legs, extending its forelegs in anticipation – a behavior known as "questing."

When prey comes into range, the tick releases itself from the leaf, lands on the unassuming human or animal and begins to burrow down, through hair and fur toward the skin, looking for a good place to latch on and begin feeding.

This is where the trouble can begin, because ticks will stay latched on until they're full (which could take several hours), during which time disease can spread.

#### Tick transmitted diseases

There are more than 850 species of ticks worldwide, and 100 of them are capable of transmitting diseases to humans

According to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, the major threat of disease from ticks to humans in Europe comes from Ixodes ricinus (the European sheep tick) and Ixodes persulcatus (taiga tick), both of whom carry Tick-Borne Encephalitis and Lyme disease.

TBE, known in Germany as FSME (Fruehsommermeningoenzephalitis), is a viral infection of the central nervous system caused by a bite from an infected tick. (Infection can also occur by eating or drinking unpasteurized dairy products from infected animals). It is not known to exist in the U.S., and is not directly transmitted from human to human.

Risk of TBE is greatest from May to September, when Ixodes ticks are most active. Those most at risk for contracting the disease are travelers with "extensive unprotected outdoor, evening and nighttime exposure like camping and hiking in rural wooded areas," according to the CHPPM.

Those who do not visit forested areas or consume unpasteurized dairy products have a low risk of contracting the disease.

An infection of TBE does not always result in the development of the disease, according to the Tick-Borne Encephalitis Fact Sheet produced by the CHPPM-Europe, and up to 95 percent of infections are silent, which means that the disease doesn't cause any symptoms and the body develops an immu-

Symptoms of TBE begin seven to 14 days after a tick bite and include fever, flu-like symptoms, headache, sensitivity to bright light, a stiff neck and nausea. The disease can result in long-term neurological problems or possibly death, according to the CHPPM.

#### Prevention is best

To avoid ticks altogether, CHP-PM recommends taking the following steps:

- Wear light-colored clothing that covers legs and arms.
- Tuck pants into boots or socks; tuck shirts in at the waist.
- Apply insect repellents containing DEET to exposed skin (but do not use on infants under two
- Always perform "tick checks" when coming in from wooded areas. Pay special attention to warm and hairy areas.
- Don't forget to check children and pets as well.

To protect pets, apply a tickrepellent product (such as Front-

line) monthly through the summer months. To help keep ticks at bay near the home, trim any excessive underbrush, dispose of dead leaves and keep grass short.



Not all ticks are infected with a disease, so just because an individual is bitten by a tick doesn't necessarily mean he or she will come down with a disease.

Furthermore, even if a tick is infected, it must remain attached to the skin for at least several hours before it can transmit its pathogens successfully. So the sooner you spot the tick and remove it, the better.

If you spot a tick embedded in the skin, remove it immediately. But take care – there are certain methods of removing ticks that are safe (see box, right, for proper tick removal techniques).

If not done correctly, an embedded tick's mouthparts could be left in the skin and disease can still be transmitted.

Stay alert. If you develop a flu-like illness, otherwise feel sick or develop a rash, seek medical attention immediately.

Armed with the knowledge of how to avoid ticks, how to remove a tick properly and how to recognize a tick-born illness should lead to a safe yet satisfying summer.

For more information visit www.chppm.com or call the Stuttgart Health Clinic at 430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610.



An Ixodes ricinius, or European Sheep Tick, demonstrates "questing behavior." This type of tick, which is known to carry diseases suck as Tick-Borne Encephalitis and Lyme disease, is prevalent in Europe.

#### Follow these steps to safely remove a tick

- Grasp the tick's mouth parts as close to the skin as possible with tweezers.
- Pull back slowly and steadily, as you would with a splinter. Be patient.
- Wash the bite site thoroughly and apply an antiseptic.
- Place tick in a sealed container or plastic bag. Store in freezer for up to one month in case disease symptoms develop.
- Do not apply petroleum jelly, fingernail polish, insect repellents or a lighted match to a tick while it is still attached.
- Do not squeeze, jerk, rip or twist the body of

source: CHPPM

**SPEAK OUT ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** 

IN THE END, WE WILL REMEMBER NOT THE WORDS OF OUR ENEMIES, BUT THE SILENCE OF OUR FRIENDS. Call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176 during duty hours or 0176-262-48894 after hours.

#### Stay safe this summer (On the road & everywhere else)



Make sure that your every summer memory is a positive one.

To learn more about how you can make this vacation season your safest one yet, contact the 6th ASG Safety Office.

DSN: 421-2752 CIV. 0711-729-2752

